Protection of culture from superstitions

3733. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any attempt to insulate culture from traditional superstitious belief which are doing tremendous harm to the country;

(b) if not, whether Government would make a study of the subject; and

(c) the details of Government's approach in the matter in view of the clear provisions in the Constitution of India?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Efforts to promote scientific temper in the society are an ongoing process. Under Article 51A of the Constitution of India, it is one of the fundamental duties of every citizen to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform.

Spread of education in general, and science education in particular, is a major component of Government's approach to the subject. The National Council of Science Museums, an automous organization under the Ministry of Culture, is engaged in popularizing and creating awareness in science and technology amongst students in particular and the masses in general, through a wide range of activities and interactive programmes. To supplement the science education imparted in schools and colleges so as to foster a spirit of scientific enquiry and creativity amongst the students is one of the primary objectives of this Council.

Multipurpose cultural complex in Chhattisgarh

†3734. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chhattisgarh has sought 50 per cent contribution for multipurpose cultural complex and the same has been granted;

(b) whether Government is providing this amount lumpsum or in instalments; and

(c) the details of contribution provided so far and future plan thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In two instalments.

(c) A proposal for setting up of Multipurpose Cultural Complex at Raipur, Chhattisgarh was sanctioned by Government of India in the year 2004. The project cost of Rs. 200 lakhs was to be shared in equal proportion by Central Government and State Government. Full Central Government share of Rs. 100 lakhs has been released in two instalments of Rs. 25 lakhs and Rs. 75 lakhs in December, 2004 and March 2008 respectively. On completion, the MPCC will be maintained and utilized by State Government as major cultural resource centre for the region.

Renovation work of Thousand Pillars Temple in Andhra Pradesh

3735. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.